THE REVEREND

MR TOPLADY'S DYING AVOWAL

OF HIS

RELIGIOUS SENTIMENTS.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

THE REVEREND

Mr TOPLADY's

DYING AVOWAL, &c.

WHEREAS, ſome Time ſince, a wicked, ſcandalous, and falſe Report was diffuſed, in various Parts of this Kingdom, by the Followers of Mr John Wesley; purporting, that I have changed ſome of my religious Sentiments, eſpecially ſuch of them as relate more immediately to the Doctrines of Grace, I thought it my indiſpenſable Duty, on the Sunday after I received this Information, which was the 13th of *June* laſt, publicly to declare myſelf, from the Pulpit in *Orange-Street* Chapel, to the following Effect: "It having been induſtriouſly circulated, by "ſome malicious and unprincipled Perſons,

" that, during my preſent long and ſevere " Illneſs, I expreſſed a ſtrong Deſire of ſee- " ing Mr *John Weſley* before I die, and " of revoking ſome Particulars relative to " him, which occur in my Writings: Now, " I do publicly and moſt ſolemnly aver, " that I have not, nor ever had, any ſuch " Intention or Deſire; and that I moſt " ſincerely hope, my laſt Hours will be " much better employed, than in con- " verſing with *ſuch* a Man." To which I added: " So certain and ſo ſatisfied am " I, of the Truth of all that I have ever " written; that, was I now ſitting up in my " dying Bed, with a Pen and Ink in my " Hand, and all the religious and contro- " verſial Writings I ever publiſhed (more " eſpecially thoſe relating to Mr *John Weſ-* " *ley*, and the Arminian Controverſy), whe- " ther reſpecting Facts or Doctrines, could " at once be diſplayed to my View, I ſhould " not ſtrike out a ſingle Line relative to him " or them."

Matters reſted thus, when I received a Letter, dated *July* 17, 1778, from a Friend who

who lives near an hundred Miles from Town, in which Letter is the following Paſſage: "I "cannot help feeling an uncommon Emotion "and Surprize, at the Report, that you have "recanted all that you have written and "ſaid againſt *John Weſley*, and many like "Things; and that you declared as much, "to your Congregation, a few Weeks ago. "I was told this, by two Perſons, who ſaid, "they were there preſent at the Time. How "am I amazed at ſuch Falſhoods! The Party, "and Name, and Character, that are eſta-"bliſhed by Lies, have no good Founda-"tion, and therefore can never ſtand long."

This determined me to publiſh the preſent Addreſs to the Religious World. I pray GOD to give the *perfect* Liars, Grace and Repentance to the Acknowledgment of the Truth. And may every Bleſſing, of the upper and of the nether Springs, be the Portion of thoſe who maintain, who experience, and adorn, the glorious Goſpel of the Grace of GOD.

Should any hoſtile Notice be taken of this Paper, I do not intend to make any Kind of Reply.

Reply. I am every Day in View of Diſſolution. And, in the fulleſt Aſſurance of my eternal Salvation, (an Aſſurance which has not been clouded by a ſingle Doubt, for near an Year and an half laſt paſt) am waiting, looking, and longing for the Coming of our Lord JESUS CHRIST.

I once intended ſubjoining to this Paper, the ſpecific Outlines of my religious Sentiments; but, on farther Reflection, I believe it may be more expedient, to refer the Reader to the ſeveral * Writings I have publiſhed: every one of which I do hereby, as a dying Man, ratify and declare to be expreſſive of my real religious Principles, from any one of which Principles I have never varied, in the leaſt Degree, ſince GOD enlightened me into the clear Knowledge of his Truth; which is now within a few Weeks of twenty Years ago.

I was

* If the Reader wiſhes to ſee a doctrinal Compendium of theſe, he will find it, in a Sermon of mine, intitled, *A Caveat againſt unſound Doctrines:* every Part of which I hereby avow to be declarative of my fixed and ultimate Judgment.

I was awakened in the Month of *Auguſt*, 1755. but not, as has been falſly reported, under Mr *John Weſley*, or any Preacher connected with him.

Though awakened in 1755, I was not led into a full and clear View of all the Doctrines of Grace, till the Year 1758. when, through the great Goodneſs of GOD, my Arminian Prejudices received an effectual Shock, in reading Dr MANTON's Sermons on the xviith of St *John*.

I ſhall remember the Years 1755, and 1758, with Gratitude and Joy, in the Heaven of Heavens, to all Eternity.

AUGUSTUS MONTAGUE TOPLADY.

Knightſbridge,
July 22, 1778.

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